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COMMUNICATIONS INTERFACE AND CONFLICT AVOIDANCE  
USING A SOFTWARE SIMULATION OF A UART

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5 **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A computer system includes a software UART emulation and uses standard operating system protocols to minimize the chance of I/O conflicts between a serial device having a UART and a non-standard serial 10 device which communicates through the UART emulation. A COM driver which can replace a standard COM driver in an operating environment such as provided by Microsoft 15 WINDOWS™ contains the UART emulation. The COM driver also sets the device address of the non-standard device on an ISA bus by determining the device addresses of COM port I/O slots used by UARTs, sending a predetermined pattern on the ISA bus to indicate a device address is to come, and then sending a value 20 indicating a device address not used by the UARTs. The pattern has a length sufficient to make inadvertent generation of the pattern unlikely. The non-standard device recognizes the predetermined pattern and selects a device address according to the value from the COM driver.

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